

**ABSTRACT**

5           A multi-layered sports playing field including  
a top layer made of substantially artificial  
material simulating a natural playing surface such  
as grass and a padding layer positioned between the  
10 top layer and the base or dirt layer. The padding  
layer is made of a plurality of discrete beads of  
substantially elastic, resilient material (e.g.,  
foam) with portions of adjacent beads abutting one  
another and other portions being spaced from each  
15 other. Substantially all of the adjacent beads are  
preferably integrally joined (e.g., glued, fused)  
together at their abutting portions. The padding  
layer is very porous and breathable and preferably  
includes feet members supporting the main body of  
the padding layer above the base or dirt layer to  
create a water channel of interconnected portions to  
enhance water drainage to the sides of the field.